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Tito Closes Party Conference

In his closing speech to the Third Party Conference, President Tito expressed general satisfaction but noted that too little had been said about the recent campaign to remove opposition to the self-management system. His reference to those inside and outside the LCY who are not "suitable for the present moment of Yugoslav development" indicates that the purge is not over. Tito also stressed that the conference resolution must not be ignored as was the case with previous party resolutions.

The President was very direct in ordering the demise of the independent student federation. He said the LCY must offer "clear cut orientations" on how youth is to be organized and that all such groupings of the young--student, urban and rural workers--"must be merged into one youth organization."

Tito also raised the specter that limitations might be placed on opportunities for young men to go abroad in search of work. He said that 300,000 young people subject to military conscription are working abroad and expressed a vague fear that they might not be able to return in a crisis situation. Jobs must be found at home for the many potential officers and NCO's.

The 16 page resolution adopted by the Conference was critical of party and youth organizations for not coming to grips with the problems of youth. It pointed to the need to combat the bad influence of anti-Marxist ideologies and called for a reform of the educational system from top to bottom. It warned that educators who oppose the self-management system would have to leave their positions. All social bodies were also exhorted to alleviate the youthful unemployment problem.

Despite the long (more than 100 speakers) and sometimes frank discussions of youth problems, few of the delegates were able to offer specific solutions. It would seem that the impact of the Conference will be minimal. The problems are so complicated that, despite Tito's call for action, no easy or quick solutions can be expected.

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### Tito In Slovenia

Tito is now in Slovenia on what appears to be a fact-finding mission to learn how his party recentralization program is being implemented. He arrived yesterday in Ljubljana where he was greeted by "outspoken warmth" and "enthusiastic applause." In the evening Tito attended a meeting of the political aktiv of Ljubljana and Slovenia (700+ in attendance) where he spoke about "some current questions of internal policy and international situation." The only report available so far deals only with international affairs. It is unlikely, however, that Tito would go to Ljubljana just to repeat standard Yugoslav foreign policy cant. Local leaders probably had mixed emotions when the leader arrived in town. Such an aktiv in Serbia in October was used to purge those who opposed Tito. A trip through Macedonia in November was not used for this purpose, however.

The only major purge victim thus far in Slovenia has been Stane Kavcic, former President of the Slovenian Federal Executive Council. He was replaced by the party Secretary Andrej Marinc. Franc Popit, the Slovenian party leader has been 100 percent behind Tito during the purge.

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### Polish Newspaper Intrigues East German Tourists

East German tourists traveling in Poland are being treated to a much freer press than they apparently are used to back home. A German-language edition of Zycie Warszawy, first appeared this summer primarily to inform East German visitors about Poland. But, in addition to tourist information, the paper includes a rich diet of international news and provocative editorials that contrast vividly with the Germans' own ideologically-controlled publications. It also informs tourists about the varied cultural scene in Poland, where plays by Genet, Beckett, Ustinov and O'Neill are running, and where to find exhibits of highly abstract art that is frowned on in East Germany. The paper's influence is considered so undesirable by East German authorities that they confiscated copies brought home by returning travelers.

By way of retaliation, there is now an East German newspaper in Polish aimed at the thousands of Poles who cross the border each week to shop in East Germany. Stacks of the newspapers remain unsold however, at East German newsstands.

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Chnoupek's Visit Cool, But Correct

The major achievement of Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Chnoupek's visit to Romania from 4 to 9 December appears to have been the conclusion of a consular agreement. Despite attempts to accentuate the positive, preliminary readings on the trip indicate little progress was made in taking the chill off the relations between Bucharest and Prague which has existed since the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

The communique issued at the conclusion of Chnoupek's talks with Romanian Foreign Minister Macovescu is the lowest common denominator on which both can agree. Neither side persuaded the other to alter views where differences exist. Both signatures underscored the desirability of improving ties across the board--not only in scientific, economic and technical relations, but in tourism, information media, culture and sports. Chnoupek and Macovescu agreed that the unity of socialist countries is based on Marxism-Leninism as well as proletarian internationalism and that this unity is a key to the struggle against all forms of imperialism. Socialist unity, however, was not linked to preparations for a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, an area where Bucharest is out of step--not only with Czechoslovakia, but also with the Soviets and Romania's other Eastern European allies. On CSCE, the two did agree that it was desirable to establish permanent machinery to carry out "common work" after the conference.

Normalization of relations between Czechoslovakia and the Federal Republic of Germany, based on the invalidity of the Munich Agreement was endorsed. There was no mention, however, of Czechoslovakia's earlier insistence that Bonn declare the agreement null and void, ab initio. On other subjects, the two sides reasserted their hope that the UN would play a greater role in settling international disputes.

Chnoupek and Macovescu used standard rhetoric to express hope progress would be made toward world disarmament, that peace would be achieved soon in Vietnam, that a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem would be reached based on the 22 November 1967 UN resolution, and that the two would work for closer ties, not only within the Warsaw Pact and CEMA, but with all socialist countries (for Bucharest, this means Communist China).

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# Reshuffling In Slovakia

On the basis of preliminary reporting, the economic situation in Slovakia may not be as rosy as it has been painted publicly.

Close on the heels of the recent economic plena of the Czechoslovak Communist Party (7-8 December) and the Slovak Communist Party (11 December), the two men most responsible for Slovakia's economy have been replaced by Slovaks who hitherto served in the central government and party in Prague. Herbert Durkovic's positions as deputy premier of Slovakia and chairman of the planning commission have been given to Karol Martinka who had been serving as Minister-vice chairman of the Czechoslovak state planning commission. It has not been announced whether or not Durkovic also lost his position on the Slovak Party presidium. Vaclav Vacok, at the same time, lost his Slovak party positions (secretary, and chairman of the central committee economic commission) to Miloslav Hruskovic. Possibly in recognition of his power, Vacok was given a consolation prize--a deputy premiership. It is not certain, however, whether he replaced Julius Hanus or a new job was created especially for him.

The fact that both Hruskovic and Martinka are technocrats and economic specialists seems to support the thesis that they have been appointed to straighten out economic difficulties. In the on-going saga of Slovakia vs. the regime of the center, it may be that both Durkovic and Vacok tended to support Slovak interests too strongly, and Husak and company may be trying to restore a "proper" perspective.

Since both Hruskovic and Martinka had to surrender their positions in the central apparatus, there could be further ramifications when these positions are filled. Up for grabs is Martinka's prior position as minister-vice chairman of the state planning commission and Hruskovic's vacated position on the central committee secretariat. There has been no indication that Hruskovic does not retain his candidate position on the presidium.

Finally, the prominent appearance in the press following the Slovak plenum of Slovak first Secretary Lenart lays to rest for the present recent rumors that he was on his way out. A recent article in Le Monde even claimed that he had been replaced by Hruskovic.

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